TROY UNIVERSITY

MJC Dispatch

Volume II Issue 1

THE MANUEL H JOHNSON CENTER FOR POLITICAL ECONOMY

Friends of the Johnson Center:

The past academic year has been marvelous for the Johnson Center! We have hired four new faculty members into the Johnson Center, hosted a half-dozen nationally renowned speakers, continued student and community outreach efforts and, best of all, created a new major in economics. Troy is the last of 126 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) universities in the country to secure an economics major, and we are excited that our new Johnson Center colleagues will be able to support more student engagement through Troy's new major.

The Sorrell College of Business reorganized into four divisions this past academic year, and I am now chairing the Division of Economics and Finance. The new structure makes a lot of sense, and the faculty have already worked together to create a new concentration within our Economics program titled Financial Economics. The concentration will give students a solid training in banking, and it will help them pursue a path similar to the one our center's namesake, Manley Johnson, took when he was a Troy student.

In the year ahead, we hope to further refine the curriculum and move forward with a MA proposal to our Alabama state commissioners. We will also be doubling down to reach the community and our students by bringing in

outstanding speakers including Benjamin Powell of Texas Tech University and Diana Thomas of Utah State University. Our fine group of Johnson Center faculty members will continue to develop their research programs and supply policy relevant ideas and funding to help explain the rate of freedom in advancing peoples lives in Alabama and around the world.

I look forward to the opportunities and challenges in the new academic year and anticipate great things!

Scott Beaulier

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Meet Our Students

BS/BA Major in Economics through College of Arts and Sciences

BSBA in Economics through Sorrell College of Business

ZAC THOMPSON

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

Favorite Economist: Milton Friedman

Expected Graduation: May 2014

Why did you switch your major to economics? I want to major in economics for the skill set it offers upon completion and the opportunities that will be available in the future. The courses are engaging and the teachers are truly concerned with their students' success, both inside and outside of the classroom. I also had the great opportunity to work as a research assistant for one of the Johnson Center's faculty members, Dr. Dan Sutter.

What are your plans after graduation? I hope to continue my education by attending graduate school.

ANA-SHEA FANN

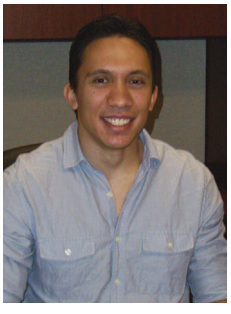
Hometown: Muskegon, Michigan

Favorite Economists: Walter Block and Steven Landsberg

Expected Graduation: May 2014

Why did you switch your major to economics? I love free-market economics. It's a beautiful study in human action. I've never seen a department faculty that invests themselves as readily and heavily as the economics professors of the Johnson Center do. They ask what their students want for themselves, and then they work with them to make it happen.

What are your plans after graduation? I am planning to attend graduate school and do more work in economics.



ROBIN HICKS

In the spring of 2013, the Johnson Center brought on our newest Graduate Assistant, Robin Hicks. Robin, who comes from Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawaii, obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. He is now pursuing his MBA in the International Economic Development field. He chose Troy University for his graduate training because he had heard about the Johnson Center from an undergraduate professor and was told to either go to Troy University or George Mason University.

Robin tells us, "In the future, I hope that by working with the Johnson Center, that more doors can be opened into the world. One of my long-term career goals is to teach. It's always something I have been passionate about; being able to help others is a rewarding feeling and I truly enjoy doing that. Another career goal that I have is to be able to get out into the world to work, to do something that I love and to work with people I enjoy working with. And working here in the Johnson Center has shown me that there are opportunities to do that. It's exciting as ever."

Great Books Reading Group

The Johnson Center completed the first "Liberty, Markets, and the Great Books" reading program during the Fall 2012 semester. The program was funded by a generous donation from the Apgar Foundation. Twelve students, ranging from a freshman business major to a senior English major, were selected to participate in the program, which asked students to read and discuss books including, F.A. Hayek's *Road to Serfdom*, Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto*, and the *Federalist Papers*. Each student earned a $1,000 scholarship for successfully completing the program.

The goal of the reading group was to give students a taste of a Great Books program and to provide Troy University students with an introduction to books that have had a major influence on contemporary economic and political thought. By reading and studying these books, Troy University students gain a better understanding of free market ideas, political theory, and America's intellectual heritage.

The Johnson Center will continue the "Liberty, Markets, and Great Books" reading group throughout the 2013-2014 academic year thanks to continued support from the Apgar Foundation.

Lectures on Freedom & Prosperity

The Johnson Center hosted four major speaking events during the 2012-2013 academic year. Stephen Moore of the *Wall Street Journal*, Erick Erickson of RedState.com and *Fox News*, Dr. Claudia Williamson from Mississippi State University, and Dr. Peter Boettke from George Mason University all visited Troy University. Stephen Moore spoke about the "keys to prosperity"; Erick Erickson discussed the relationship between politics and journalism at the M. Stanton Evans Journalism Symposium; Dr. Williamson talked about the role foreign aid policies play in development and Dr. Boettke spoke about his new book, *Living Economics*.

Stephen Moore

Dr. Peter Boettke

Dr. Claudia Williamson

Erick Erickson

Centerfold

Right: Troy University student Ana-Shea Fann (right), had the pleasure of meeting Senator Rand Paul at a conference in Washington, D.C.

Above: Holly Vernon flips through a free copy of After the Welfare State *provided by Students for Liberty.*

Left: Students discuss a reading assignment before a "Liberty, Markets, and the Great Books" reading group session.

Above: Dr. Peter Boettke discusses his new book, Living Economics, *with Troy University students.*

Above: Jeffrey Tucker, editor of Laissez Faire Books, lectures to students during "Liberty Stock," an event hosted by Troy University's Students For Liberty chapter.

Above: Johnson Center faculty members stand for a picture with Stephen Moore, editorial board member of the Wall Street Journal.

Above: Drs. GP Manish and Daniel Smith flip through a reading assignment for the "Liberty, Markets, and the Great Books" reading group.

Above: Students flip through materials while waiting for the Institute for Humane Studies Weekend Seminar to begin.

Above: Johnson Center faculty and students pose for a picture with Dr. Peter Boettke at a football game tailgate.

Donate to the Johnson Center

The Johnson Center relies primarily on private funding and donations to operate.

Please consider contributing to the Johnson Center via the attached envelope. Your donation will be used to support undergraduate student activities, community outreach, and faculty research.

All donations are tax-deductible and much appreciated.

MJC Welcomes Four New Faculty

Dr. GP Manish

Dr. John Dove

Dr. Malavika Nair

Dr. Thomas Hogan

The Johnson Center is pleased to welcome four new faculty members! Dr. GP Manish joined the Johnson Center and Division of Economics and Finance at the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester. He recently earned his doctorate at Suffolk University and specializes in development economics, economic history, monetary and business cycle theory, and the history of economic thought.

Drs. Malavika Nair and John Dove will be starting at the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester. Dr. Nair also earned her doctorate at Suffolk University and explores different constraints on central banks in her research. Dr. Dove is a graduate of West Virginia University, and his research focuses on the effects municipal bankruptcies have on taxpayers.

Dr. Thomas Hogan is also starting this fall as an Assistant Professor of Finance and a Johnson Center scholar. Dr. Hogan earned his doctorate at George Mason University, and his research focuses on monetary economics and financial market regulation.

A Record-Setting Weekend Seminar!

The Johnson Center joined with the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) and Samford University to host the second Weekend Exploring Liberty seminar at Troy University. The total student attendance was 132, which more than doubled the previous record for any IHS weekend seminar attendance! The weekend featured lectures such as "The Bourgeois Era: Why Some People Are Rich While Others Are Poor," "The Primitivism of Politics," "Freedom, Virtue, and the Good Life," and "How to Be Ruled by Eccentric Rich Guys." After each day of sessions, students and faculty were invited to socialize in the Johnson Center Library and further discuss the topics of the day. Ryan Spires, a political science major at Troy University, stated that "IHS is always an exciting weekend to refresh ideas, become exposed to new presenters, and connect with people on a variety of topics. It's an excellent way to learn and interact here at Troy University."

Students Attend International Conference

Troy University Students for Liberty members, Garrett Brown, Taylor Hardwick, Brad McGlawn, Gordon Miller, Hannah Favre, and Kelsey Vickers (left to right) attend the Fifth Annual International Students for Liberty Conference.

The Fifth Annual International Students For Liberty Conference was held in Washington, DC during the weekend of February 15-17, 2013. Seven members of Troy University's Student For Liberty (SFL) chapter were in attendance: Brad McGlawn, Kelsey Vickers, Garrett Brown, Taylor Hardwick, Gordon Miller, Hannah Favre, and Ana-Shea Fann. The conference opened with a keynote address by John Mackey, CEO and co-founder of Whole Foods Market, Inc. Student attendees were also able to participate as audience members for two tapings of the Stossel Show, hosted by John Stossel. "It was a fantastic weekend of camaraderie – it is rare that so many pro-liberty students find themselves in the midst of so many like-minded people," Ana-Shea said.

Military Lunch and Learns

Dr. Scott Beaulier poses for a picture with Deputy Garrison Commander George Steuber (left) and Garrison CSM Mark Moore (right) after a lecture at Fort Benning.

During the Fall of 2012, Johnson Center faculty members traveled to local military bases to discuss the link between economic freedom and prosperity with military personnel and students. Each visit consisted of a lunch provided at no charge to all military attendees, followed by a 30-40 minute educational lecture on the importance of economic freedom. To date, the Johnson Center has visited with military members at Maxwell Air Force Base, Fort Benning, and Fort Rucker. Military personnel and students have been very receptive to the message of economic freedom, frequently citing their own experiences with government inefficiencies and sharing concerns about the future of America's economy. "The presentation by Dr. Scott Beaulier was timely, interesting and very stimulating as much discussion was generated. To have such professional presentations in the future can only be a positive for our military communities," stated Dr. Grey Edwards, HUB ACES Director of Education at Fort Benning. The Johnson Center hopes to continue these educational lectures at other military bases in the upcoming academic year.

Johnson Center Featured across Alabama and the Nation

The Johnson Center has reached hundreds of thousands of people due to media coverage throughout Alabama and the United States. Dr. Daniel J. Smith's tornado recovery research in Tuscaloosa, AL, and Joplin, MO, got nationwide attention in the *Wall Street Journal* and established him as an expert in regulations that slow down disaster recovery. Dr. Smith was interviewed in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska after tornados whipped through the Midwest last year. Dr. Scott Beaulier's economic expertise has also been featured throughout the Southeast, including his weekly column in the *Troy Messenger* and a regular column on *AL.com* (which includes *The Birmingham News* and dozens of Ala. news outlets), plus more than a dozen TV interviews including *Wilkow!* on the *TheBlaze TV*, *Alabama Live!* (WSFA), and *CBS 8 News at Noon* (WAKA). Dr. Beaulier's columns are available from the Johnson Center website (business.troy.edu/JohnsonCenter).

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TROY UNIVERSITY™

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